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# CIA asks aid hike for Nicaragua

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WASHINGTON — The CIA has advised Congress that the rebels it finances in their battle against Nicaragua's Sandinista government have made some progress, and that it wants additional funds for them this year and next, according to several congressional sources.

The sources also said that CIA Director William Casey told the House and Senate intelligence and armed services committees in classified briefings that the CIA would continue backing the insurgents until the Sandinistas fulfill four conditions:

- End support for Salvadoran guerrillas.
- End military and security ties with Cuba in particular and the Soviet bloc in general.
- Reduce the size of military forces and stop "threatening" neighboring countries.
- Call elections and allow opposition leaders to participate.

Congressional sources, who have had access to classified information, said Casey told the committees that the administration would submit a supplemental request to the House and Senate intelligence committees for additional funds in 1984.

The sources said that President Reagan's budget proposal sent to Congress Feb. 1 also contains, in a classified segment, a request for funds for 1985.

The sources said Casey spoke of needing between \$20 million and \$50 million this year and about \$50 million next year. However, the sources said, Casey did not provide final figures. Currently, the Honduran-based rebels are operating from a \$24-million fund approved by Congress last year.

The money is expected to run out by June and Congress has prohibited the CIA from dipping into its contingency fund to finance the rebels, as it had done before. That was part of the compromise between Congress and the administration to allow the covert operation to proceed even after the House voted twice in 1983 to end it.

"The contras [anti-Sandinista rebels] have become a line item in the budget," a knowledgeable congressional source said. "They have become institutionalized like U.S.

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## rebels

military aid for El Salvador, and therefore the CIA keeps coming back for more money every year."

"We have received assurances of a commitment from the United States to continue giving us support," Adolfo Calero, civilian head of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), one of the groups fighting the Sandinistas, said in an interview. "We believe the U.S. commitment is secure."

Some members of Congress have criticized the FDN for failing to expand its operations within Nicaragua, for not taking any villages or cities and for not "liberating" territory in January as had been expected.

As a result, some congressional sources said, the CIA reportedly had warned the FDN late last year that if it didn't step up the "secret war" by Feb. 1, the agency could re-examine its support for the anti-Sandinistas.

These sources said the CIA demanded that the FDN, in exchange for continued support, take its war to the cities, occupy territory to establish a provisional government, reorganize its general staff, streamline its fighting campaign and ultimately form a military alliance with the other anti-Sandinista rebel group, the Costa Rican-based Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE).

These same sources suggested the FDN has met some of the demands and is working on others. As a result, the sources added, the CIA has concluded that its covert program in Nicaragua has been moderately successful — particularly because it has pressured the Sandinistas into a more conciliatory stance toward the United States.

But Calero acknowledged that the organization has not achieved certain objectives. He said that some of them, such as seizing territory or igniting city warfare, were "options" and not "do-or-die" goals.

He said recent changes to improve the efficiency of FDN's effort included the shake-up of the general staff, formerly consisting mostly of military chiefs. This group, said Calero, was replaced with a civilian-military junta headed by Calero himself.

